GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OCEAN DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6983
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2005
INSTALLATION OF TSUNAMI WARNING SYSTEM
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Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the vulnerability of Indian Coastal areas to Tsunami, earthquakes and cyclones has been reviewed in view of the second Tsunami like earthquake hitting Indonesia on Monday, March 28, 2005.

(b) if so, the conclusions drawn and revised decisions taken for installation of a Tsunami Warning System, its location and parameters of its operation;

(c) the location of the epicentre of this earthquake and its distance from nearest Indian coast; and

(d) the steps since taken to expedite installation of such a system and the technical and scientific aid sought and received or likely to be received in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The conclusions drawn earliar subsequent to Great Tsunami event of December 26, 2004 hold. A Tsunami Warning was issued after the 28 March, 2005 high magnitude eaarthquake off Indonesia on the basis of advisories of Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre. No significant tsunami was generated on the Indian coasts. This reiterates our view that for forecasting a Tsunami for Indian mainland and Andaman & Nicobar Islands coasts, a system as envisaged by India would be necessary.

(c) Epicenter of the 28 March 2005 was located in Northern Sumatra at 2.07 degree North and 97.01d degree East at a distance of about 800 km from the southemmost Nicobar Island.

(d) Aafter the Tsunami Event of 26 December, 204 it has been proposed to set up a Tsunami and Storm Surge Early Warning System with the following components;

- Strengthening of the existing seismological network to indicate in near real time occurrence of a tsunamigenic earthquake.
- Installation of tsunami warning sensors close to the ocean bottom at approopriate locales in the India Ocean, with real time connectivity.
- Tide gauge and data buoys networking.
- Modeling of the inundation scenarious for the entire coast.
- The establishment of a center for collection of the information, analysis and generating status advisories.

No scientific and technical support is sought for setting up the system.